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All Strange Away

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All Strange Away is a short prose text by Samuel Beckett first published in English in 1964.[1] A special signed edition with illustrations by Edward Gorey was published in 1976, and in a trade edition by Grove Press (New York) of collected texts titled, *Rockaby and Other Short Pieces* in 1981. Beckett's British publisher, John Calder, also printed the work independently in 1979 and again, in 1990, in a collection of late prose works under the title, *As the Story was Told*.

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Plot [edit source]

In a monologue with himself "in the last person",[2] the nameless unseen protagonist begins with the words, "Imagination dead imagine". He then describes an enclosed space of bare walls that are "five foot square, six high[3] and lit on and off from no visible source. Evoking a theatrical setting, he imagines light fading up on a stool surrounded by walls displaying women's faces while, in a corner, he perceives the "tattered syntaxes of Jolly and Draeger Praeger Draeger".[4] The size and description of the space with "no way in, none out"[5] is subject to change depending on the clarity of the protagonist's failing memory as he attempts to recall a love affair with Emma.

Notes [edit source]

1. ^ Ackerley and Gontarski, *The Grove Companion to Samuel Beckett*, 10
2. ^ Beckett, "All Strange Away", 42
3. ^ Beckett, "All Strange Away", 41
4. ^ Beckett, "All Strange Away", 42
5. ^ Beckett, "All Strange Away", 41

Sources [edit source]

Primary [edit source]

- Beckett, Samuel (1990). "All Strange Away" in *As the Story was Told*. London: Calder Publishers ISBN 0-7145-4113-3

Secondary [edit source]

- Ackerley, C.J. and Gontarski, A.E. (2004). *The Grove Companion to Samuel Beckett*. New York: Grove Press ISBN 0-8021-4049-1

External links [edit source]

- *All Strange Away* Review by Peter Murphy
- Stage: Samuel Beckett's *All Strange Away* NYT theater review by Mel Gussow

V · T · E **Samuel Beckett** [hide]

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Related		Suzanne Dechevaux-Dumesnil (wife) · Frances Beckett (aunt) · James Beckett (uncle) · *Journal of Beckett Studies* · LÉ *Samuel Beckett* (P61) · *Notfilm* (2015 documentary)

Categories: Short stories by Samuel Beckett

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